



WELFARE-TO-WORK

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE
Number: I-21-00

INFORMATION BULLETIN
Number: WB00-13

Date: March 6, 2000

Expiration Date: 3/31/00
69:86:3443

TO: SERVICE DELIVERY AREA ADMINISTRATORS
PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSONS
WELFARE-TO-WORK 15 PERCENT SUBGRANTEES
DOL WELFARE-TO-WORK 25 PERCENT SUBGRANTEES
COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
COUNTY CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF
EDD EXECUTIVE STAFF
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BRANCH STAFF
FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: 1999 AMENDMENTS TO THE WELFARE-TO-WORK GRANT PROGRAM

On November 29, 1999, the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Grant program amendments were enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000. These changes have been long awaited and will loosen the strict eligibility requirements and allow California to serve a greater number of the hardest-to-employ population throughout the State. However, the effective dates for the new eligibility rules have been staggered and are not immediate for the state formula grant funds nor are they retroactive. The new eligibility requirements went into effect on January 1, 2000, for the Department of Labor (DOL) 25 Percent Competitive Grants; and become effective on July 1, 2000, for nonfederal and State matching funds; and October 1, 2000, for the 85 and 15 percent formula fund grants.

Some of the highlights include changes to the eligibility requirements, adding pre-employment vocational education or job training for up to six months, and other program-related modifications. The most significant changes are the elimination of the barriers to the employment requirement, the broadening of the eligibility criteria for noncustodial parents (NCP), and the inclusion of foster children turning 18 years of age. A summary of the changes and additional information regarding the WtW amendments can be viewed on the DOL WtW Web site at <http://wtw.doleta.gov>. For your convenience, a summary of the key changes is attached.

As stated, the WtW amendments have different effective dates depending on the type of grantee and the applicable provisions. The following chart is to be used as a reference tool:

Grantee	Amendment Provision	Effective Date
State Formula 85 Percent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant eligibility. • Six-month vocational education or job training. 	October 1, 2000, for expending WtW Grant formula dollars
State Governor's 15 Percent Discretionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant eligibility. • Six-month vocational education or job training. • Direct provision of job readiness, job placement, and post-employment services if grantee is not a Private Industry Council (PIC) or Local Workforce Investment Board. 	October 1, 2000, for expending WtW Grant formula dollars
Nonfederal and State Matching Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant eligibility. • Six-month vocational education or job training. 	July 1, 2000
DOL 25 Percent Competitive Grants	• Participant eligibility.	January 1, 2000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six-month vocational education of job training. • Direct provision of job readiness, job placement, and post-employment services if grantee is not a PIC or Local Workforce Investment Board. 	November 29, 1999

For the State WtW formula grants (85 and 15 percent grantees), the current 70/30 percent eligibility and expenditure requirements will continue to be applicable through September 30, 2000. Once the new eligibility requirements are in effect, they will apply to all newly enrolled participants and, according to DOL, WtW grant partners will be able to reclassify existing participants from the 30 percent category to the "general eligibility" (70 percent) category as long as they meet the new eligibility criteria.

Effective as soon as possible, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) strongly recommends County Welfare Departments (CWD) begin referring welfare recipients and foster children, who meet the new eligibility requirements, to the 25 Percent WtW Competitive subgrantees. Furthermore, all CWDs and WtW grant partners are encouraged to begin establishing processes and developing mechanisms essential to the successful collaboration and coordination of referral systems as well as

providing services to the new eligible categories. At a minimum, linkages must be established with domestic violence, IV-D, and foster care agencies at the local level, as well as alcohol and drug and mental health programs. To help in this collaborative effort, a list of the County Independent Living Coordinators for foster care children may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.childsworld.org/services/ilpccoord.htm>.

As soon as the DOL Interim Final Rule for the 1999 WtW amendments are published, the Employment Development Department (EDD) and CDSS will issue additional information. Please direct WtW grant inquiries about this information bulletin/notice to your assigned EDD program manager, at (916) 654-7799. Direct the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families inquiries to Pat Loader, WtW Grant Project Analyst, CDSS, at (916) 654-1770.

***Original Document Signed By
Charr Lee Metsker on 3/6/00***

CHARR LEE METSKER
Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch, CDSS

***Original Document Signed By
Bill Burke on 3/6/00***

BILL BURKE
Assistant Deputy Director
Job Training Partnership Division, EDD

Attachment

**1999 Welfare-to-Work Grant Amendments
Summary of Major Changes**

I. Participant Eligibility

A. 70 Percent Eligibility Criteria

Current law requires that 70 percent of Welfare-to-Work (WtW) grant funds be expended to provide services to individuals who meet one of the four criteria listed below and have two of three specified barriers to employment.

1. Long-term (30 months or more receiving assistance) Temporary Assistance to Needy Families/California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (TANF/CalWORKs) or;
2. Noncustodial parents (NCP) and whose minor children, or the custodial parent of the NCP's minor children, are long-term TANF/CalWORKs recipients or;
3. Individuals who are no longer receiving TANF/CalWORKs assistance because they have reached their federal lifetime limit on aid or;
4. Individuals who will become ineligible for TANF/CalWORKs assistance within 12 months due to federal lifetime limits.

As amended, the barriers to employment no longer apply. Individuals, who meet the eligibility criteria identified in 1, 3, and 4 above, will continue to be eligible to participate in the WtW Grant program. However, a separate eligibility category has been established specifically for NCPs under the following new criteria:

1. The NCP must be unemployed, underemployed, or having difficulty in paying child support, and
2. At least one of the following applies to a minor child of the NCP:
 - The minor child, or the custodial parent of the NCP's minor child, has received aid for 30 months or more, or are within 12 months of reaching the federal lifetime limit on aid; or
 - The minor child is eligible for, or receiving TANF benefits; or
 - The minor child received TANF benefits during the preceding year but is no longer receiving assistance; or
 - The minor child is eligible for, or receiving assistance under the Food Stamps program, the Supplemental Security Income program, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program, and
3. After the NCPs are enrolled in the WtW grant program, they enter into a written or oral personal responsibility contract under which they commit to cooperate in establishing paternity, pay child support, and participate in services to increase their employment and earnings to support their children.

30 Percent Eligibility Criteria

Current law requires that no more than 30 percent of the WtW grant funds be expended on TANF/CalWORKs recipients or NCPs with characteristics of long-term welfare dependency. The amendments retain the current 30 percent criteria for current CalWORKs/TANF recipients with characteristics of long-term welfare dependency, with the exception of removing NCPs from this category. The NCPs are included under the new “general eligibility” criteria (70 percent). The following new categories have been added to the 30 percent eligibility criteria:

1. Youth who have attained 18 years of age but not 25 and who, before turning 18 years old, were recipients of foster care; or
2. Custodial parents with incomes below 100 percent of the poverty level (no connection to CalWORKs/TANF is required); or
3. CalWORKs/TANF recipients with barriers to self-sufficiency as determined by local Private Industry Councils (PIC)/Workforce Investment Boards (WIB).

II. Allowable Activities

Current law does not allow for any training prior to obtaining work. The amendments add vocational education or job training as a separate allowable activity under the WtW Grant program. This activity is limited to six months and may be offered prior to becoming employed.

Presently, WtW grantees are not allowed to provide job readiness, job placement and post-employment services directly to WtW participants unless they’re operating a comprehensive program. These services must be provided through a contract or voucher. The new amendments will allow grantees that are not PICs/WIBs to provide these services directly to WtW participants. The Department of Labor (DOL) has interpreted this to mean “that any administering agency other than PICs/WIBs may provide employment services directly.” They have specifically included the DOL 25 Percent Competitive grantees. California has requested clarification from DOL that operating entities under the Governor’s 15 percent funds who are not PICs/WIBS will also be allowed to provide these services directly. We will transmit additional information when it is received.

III. Reporting Requirements

Current financial and participant reporting requirements, as originally enacted in WtW legislation in 1997, are eliminated through the 1999 WtW amendments. The amendments authorize the Secretary of Labor, together with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as well as localities, the States, and organizations representing the States, to establish requirements for the collection and maintenance of financial and participant information. The DOL is expected to publish new WtW participant and financial reporting requirements in early 2000. Current WtW grantees will continue their operations under current reporting requirements until reporting changes are published and become effective.

IV. Information Sharing Regarding Noncustodial Parents

Current law does not provide for any information sharing regarding the NCPs. Under the 1999 WtW amendments, the PIC/WIB WtW grantees' access to information regarding potential NCP WtW participants is made more flexible. Child support enforcement agencies are given authority to share information concerning the NCPs to allow PICs/ WIBs the flexibility to contact NCPs to participate in the WtW program. The information can include name, address, phone numbers, and case number information. California must ensure that the PIC/WIB has procedures in place to protect the privacy of this information. The PIC/WIB must ensure that the information is used for WtW program recruiting only.

Even though PICs/WIBs will be allowed access to this information, this new provision cannot be construed to affect any other law requiring protection of custodial parents and a NCP's minor child(ren) that may be at risk of domestic violence. As amended, PICs/WIBs are directed to consult with domestic violence prevention and intervention organizations in the development of NCP projects.

V. WtW Grant Program Performance Bonus Funds

Current law provides a set-aside of \$100 million from Fiscal Year 1999 as a performance bonus for successful states. The 1999 amendments reduce the performance bonus funds by 50 percent. The WtW amendments provide a total of \$50 million dollars, which can be awarded in Fiscal Year 2000, but not expended until October 1, 2000.